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BACKGROUND

TREATY ARTICLE 17, OTHERS

I. Article 17 of the treaty agrees that Austria shall:

- A. Maintain a defensive force "closely restricted to meeting tasks of an internal character and local defense of frontiers."
- B. Ground forces, including frontier guards, anti-aircraft troops, gendarmerie and river gendarmerie, limited to total 53,000 men.
- C. Air force limited to 90 planes, of which only 70 may be combat types and none bombers: total personnel held to 5,000 men.

II. Articles 18 through 30 of the treaty also deal with defense matters: conditions under which armed forces are to be raised and maintained, eligible personnel (no ex-Nazis),

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types of weapons and aircraft, policy

toward possible future German rearmament,  
etc.

III. Austria would welcome revisions to permit  
an increase of armed forces by 35,000  
men.

IV. UK and French advocate increase.

V. Soviet position not yet definitive. Thus-  
far:

A. Soviet Ambassador, during talks in  
Vienna, has declared he is not  
authorized to discuss any revision of  
Article 17 and has also opposed  
changes in the other military articles.

B. Pravda has sharply attacked increase  
proposals as attempts to destroy  
Austrian neutrality, draw her into  
military bloc.

-2-

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